

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated coryneform bacterium wherein an argR gene on a chromosome of the bacterium is disrupted, and the argR gene prior to being disrupted has the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17 ~~or is obtained from chromosomal DNA of the bacterium by PCR under a condition with oligonucleotide primers having a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16, wherein said condition is sufficient to amplify at least an internal portion of the argR gene.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein the disrupted argR gene encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:18 or an amino acid sequence which is encoded by an argR gene, ~~which~~ gene which is obtained from chromosomal DNA of the bacterium by PCR with oligonucleotide primers having a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16.

4. – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a species selected from the group consisting of

Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum,

Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum,

Corynebacterium alkanolyticum,

Corynebacterium callunae,
Corynebacterium glutamicum,
Corynebacterium lilium,
Corynebacterium melassecola,
Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes,
Corynebacterium herculis,
Brevibacterium divaricatum,
Brevibacterium flavum,
Brevibacterium immariophilum,
Brevibacterium lactofermentum,
Brevibacterium roseum,
Brevibacterium saccharolyticum
Brevibacterium thiogenitalis,
Brevibacterium album,
Brevibacterium cerinum, and
Microbacterium ammoniophilum.

7. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a species selected from the group consisting of

Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum,
Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum,
Corynebacterium alkanolyticum,
Corynebacterium callunae,

Corynebacterium glutamicum,
Corynebacterium lilium,
Corynebacterium melassecola,
Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes,
Corynebacterium herculis,
Brevibacterium divaricatum,
Brevibacterium flavum,
Brevibacterium immariophilum,
Brevibacterium lactofermentum,
Brevibacterium roseum,
Brevibacterium saccharolyticum
Brevibacterium thiogenitalis,
Brevibacterium album,
Brevibacterium cerinum, and
Microbacterium ammoniaphilum.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of sulfa drugs, 2-thiazolealanine, and α -amino- β -hydroxyvaleric acid.

10. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said

coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of sulfa drugs, 2-thiazolealanine, and α -amino- β -hydroxyvaleric acid.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium exhibits auxotrophy for a compound selected from the group consisting of L-histidine, L-proline, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-methionine, and L-tryptophan.

13. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium exhibits auxotrophy for a compound selected from the group consisting of L-histidine, L-proline, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-methionine, and L-tryptophan.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of ketomalonic acid, fluoromalonic acid, and monofluoroacetic acid.

16. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of ketomalonic acid, fluoromalonic acid, and monofluoroacetic acid.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of arginol and X-guanidine, wherein X is derived from a fatty acid or aliphatic chain.

19. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of arginol and X-guanidine, wherein X is derived from a fatty acid or aliphatic chain.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of producing L-arginine, comprising culturing the coryneform bacterium of Claim 2 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium, and collecting the L-arginine from the medium.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of producing L-arginine, comprising culturing the coryneform bacterium of Claim 3 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium, and collecting the L-arginine from the medium.

22. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a genus selected from the group consisting of the genus *Corynebacterium*, the genus *Brevibacterium*, and the genus *Microbacterium*.

23. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 3,

wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a genus selected from the group consisting of the genus *Corynebacterium*, the genus *Brevibacterium*, and the genus *Microbacterium*.

24. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein said isolated coryneform bacterium is a recombinant coryneform bacterium.

25. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein said isolated coryneform bacterium is a transformed coryneform bacterium.

26. (Canceled)